more robust legal framework, to deal with sudden terror attacks, since police officials find themselves helpless to counter terrorism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the reported statement of DIB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) What is discussed in the conference of Directors General of Police cannot be in bits and pieces, separated from one another and cannot be commented upon disjointedly, while replying to questions. Such an exercise creates confusions, rather than a solution to the problems. The government is always willing to tackle the essence in correct spirit and act upon it in a proper manner, without allowing the spirit to be distorted and misused.

Caste-based census

2349. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre is considering to conduct a caste-based census; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) No caste-based census of the population has been undertaken in post-independence period and there is no proposal for conducting the caste-based census. The information on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been collected at each of censuses since 1951, for meeting the Constitutional requirement.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has requested the State Governments/Union Territories to conduct a survey to determine the number of Other Backward Castes (OBCs) as well as those amongst them living below the poverty line.